

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR.-EB/OT/GCP:MGOLDMAN:JES

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

ITC:WHART

STR:BSTEINBOCK

USDA:RHARPER

----- 001663

R 230315Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, CE

SUBJECT:SRI LANKA: GSP ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS

REF: A) COLOMBO 4016; B) STATE 000063

1. IN GENERAL, AIM OF GSP IS TO ENCOURAGE EXPORT EARNINGS OF LDCS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO U.S. MARKETS FOR NEW MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN THOSE COUNTRIES. ONLY THOSE MANUFACTURED GOODS SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED BY LAW WERE NOT PROPOSED FOR GSP WHEREAS A MORE SELECTIVE APPROACH WAS APPLIED TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. HENCE NOT ALL AGRICULTURAL ARTICLES FOR WHICH GSP STATUS WAS REQUESTED WERE FORMALLY CONSIDERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION.

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2. IN SRI LANKA'S CASE TSUS ARTICLES LISTED IN REF A PARA

2 (148898; 16123; 17604) WERE NOT PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT IN MARCH FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ITC. COCONUT MEAT (TSUS 145.08) WAS PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT IN MARCH FOR CONSIDERATION, BUT WAS NOT INCLUDED IN FINAL GSP LIST. IN DETERMINING WHICH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO INCLUDE, USG CONSIDERED A NUMBER OF FACTORS INCLUDING INTER ALIA ORIGINAL PREMISE THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LIST WOULD BE SELECTIVE; CONCEPT OF BURDEN-SHARING VIS A VIS OTHER GSP DONOR COUNTRIES; AND ONGOING MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

REF B OUTLINES PROCEDURES WHICH INTERESTED PARTIES MAY FOLLOW IN PROPOSING USG RECONSIDERATION OF GSP STATUS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTS. OTHER ARTICLES CITED IN REF A PARA 4 (14950; 16165; 51721) WERE INCLUDED ON GSP LIST.

3. GSL DELEGATION IN GENEVA CLEARLY REQUESTED GSP STATUS FOR INSTANT TEA ITEM REFERRED TO IN REF A PARA 4 BUT NO TSUS NUMBER WAS GIVEN. TEA CRUDE OR PREPARED (TSUS NO. 160.50) ENTERS DUTY-FREE. THIS CATEGORY INCLUDES INSTANT TEA AS LONG AS IT REMAINS PURE TEA WITH NO ADDITIVES. IF TEA IMPORTED UNDER THIS CATEGORY ENTERS IN PACKAGES OF LESS THAN FIVE POUNDS NET, THE CONTAINERS AND WRAPPINGS ARE DUTIABLE AS IF IMPORTED EMPTY. TEA (INSTANT OR OTHERWISE) IMPORTED MIXED WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES (E.G. LEMON, LIME) IS CLASSIFIED AS AN EDIBLE PREPARATION UNDER TSUS 182.98 AND IS SUBJECT TO DUTY. SISCO

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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